

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Claims 5, 7 and 13-17 are pending in the application, with claims 1-4 and 8-12 have been cancelled. Claims 5, 7 and 13-17 stand rejected. Claim 6 stands objected to.

Applicant appreciates entry by the Examiner of the predecessor application information.

The specification has been amended to eliminate reference to the original claims and to change some of the legal language.

The term “silocco fan” has been corrected throughout the specification to “sirocco fan” as suggested by the Examiner.

The title has been amended to be more descriptive.

Claim 5 has been amended to correct the typographical error noted by the Examiner.

Claim 15 has been amended to correct the term “sirocco fan”.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 5, 7 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Motouchi (US 5,977,716). Claim 5 is amended to more clearly distinguish from the Motouchi reference.

A feature of the claim 5 invention is that the pointed ends of the first pole do not extend toward the second pole. See Figures 5 – 7, for example. The pointed ends of a first pole extend toward horizontal direction (right and left), whereas the pointed ends of

a first pole extend toward a second pole in Motouchi of the reference. Thus, our claimed extending direction is different from the extending direction taught by the Motouchi reference.

Another feature of the claim 5 invention is that a discharge surface of the second pole is a convex surface. Motouchi, on the other hand, teaches a discharge surface of a second pole that is a concave surface (surface defined by a cylinder). Thus, there are two structural differences between our claim 5 invention and what is taught by Motouchi. These structural differences allow our configuration to achieve higher ionizing performance characteristics than those that can be achieved by Motouchi. Claim 5 has been amended to require these structural differences and should therefore be patentable over Motouchi.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103


Claims 13 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Motouchi (US 5,977,716) in view of Suzuki (US 5,296,018). Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motouchi (US 5,977,716) in view of Oie et al. (US 4,541,847). Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motouchi (US 5,977,716) in view of Patapoff et al. (US 5,685,980).

These claims depend from and further limit claim 5 which has been amended in view of Motouchi. Thus, these claims should now be allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 6 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as being allowable if rewritten into independent form. Such amendment has been made.

Respectfully submitted,
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